

Literary Analysis

DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE

A **dramatic monologue** is a lyric poem in which a speaker describes a meaningful experience to a silent or absent listener. The speaker is a character describing events in his or her own life. A dramatic monologue includes a specific setting and events, but you often need to make inferences to identify these elements. For example, the setting of “My Last Duchess” is not stated directly. After reading the poem, details in the poem help readers infer that the setting is 16th-century Italy, and that the speaker is a duke.

Directions: Complete each chart to make inferences about the key elements of Browning’s dramatic monologues. Describe the personality and perspective of the speaker and identify the setting of the poem. Tell what events take place during the monologue and note events described in the poem that happened at an earlier time.

“My Last Duchess”

Speaker	Setting	Action During the Poem	Past Events

“Porphyria’s Lover”

Speaker	Setting	Action During the Poem	Past Events